

Bedford Youth and Family Services Committee Meeting
MINUTES
Thursday, March 12, 2015

Attendance: Sue Baldauf, Director; Tom Pinney, Chair, at large; Caroline Fedele, Selectmen and Recreation Commission; Caroline Donnelly, Board of Health; Peter Ricci, at large; Ann Guay, School Committee; Ali Malkin, at large

Absent: Jeff Wardwell, Police

Meeting opened at 7:03 pm with Chair Tom Pinney presiding and introductions.

Minutes: Minutes from January 2015 meeting approved as presented.

Old Business:

Grants update:

The next meeting on Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan is scheduled for spring. Six target areas have been identified as priority areas. There will be a presentation to the Selectmen describing transportation options.

Hoarding training will continue in April or May. Progress on grant has been somewhat stalled due to lack of referrals.

Transitional Families Update: The Forum on Homelessness March 1st was well received. The number of families remains relatively stable because as one family moves on, they are replaced with another family. Twenty-two to 25 families are currently being housed in Bedford.

YRBS Data Dissemination: YFS have created information posters for display at the high school and middle school related to drug and alcohol abuse. The posters encourage communication between students and their parents. These posters are also on the BYFS web site.

New Business:

FY16 Budget Process: The YFS FY16 budget has been passed by the Finance Committee.

Other: The BYFS Spring Newsletter was presented. Also, pocket guides useful to the police and other citizens with various phone numbers and information were also updated and distributed. The Youth Resource Card was presented. It is a wallet-sized laminate card with helpful phone numbers and web addresses to help youth stay safe and healthy.

Updates from Committee Participants:

Selectmen/Caroline Fedele

- The salt shed proposed by MassDOT to be placed near Rt. 62 will not be located there.
- The Selectmen have decided to give the one remaining liquor license to RedHeat Tavern. This issue has gone to the Zoning Board and no decision has resulted. Next meeting of the Zoning Board to address this issue is March 26.
- The Selectmen are also considering an application for additional liquor licenses for Bedford. This would be a way to attract other businesses to Bedford.

Scouts/Peter Ricci

- Hanscom has a new point person for partnerships with towns. Areas include fire and safety, emergency medical, and workshops.
- New kindergarten parents orientation meeting was well received.
- Fifth grade boys are joining the boy scouts.

Board of Health/Caroline Donnelly

- The Board of Health opened a hearing for a Bedford landlord who has been cited for sanitation violations. He was given 30 days to correct the problems.
- The sushi business at Whole Foods was granted a variance for the acidification of their sushi rice.

School Committee-Ann Guay

- The FY2016 school budget has been approved by the School Committee.
- Two residents are running for one spot on the School Committee in the town election on March 14.
- The Technology Showcase will take place April 8 at the High School.
- April 12 is the date for the Multicultural Festival

Recreation Commission/Caroline Fedele

- Springs Brook Park has a short-term plan. Under this plan the park will open as usual this spring and be open on weekdays but not on weekends. This is to upgrade/invest in the structures already present in the park.
- A new design firm has been working on a plan for Springs Brook Park. The emphasis is on making the park work for residents.
- Some consider the balance too high on the Rec Department revolving fund. There is now a "green light" to spend some of this money. Security at Kid's Club is being considered. There are long-term space issues at the Kid's Club.
- Fireworks are planned for the July 4th holiday in 2015.
- Athletic fields are closed due to the snow.

At large/Ali Malkin

- The FDA has recently approved the sale of powdered alcohol, which will probably be sold by the summertime.
- In order to raise awareness of sexual violence with teenagers, Newton North High School recently had speaker Mary Dunn, who is the mother of a teenage girl killed by her former boyfriend and founder of the Laurenn Dunn Astley Memorial Fund. We discussed having a similar event in Bedford, perhaps in the evening with teens and parents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Next meeting is on 5/14/15 at 7:00 pm. Chair: Tom Pinney Clerk: Jeff Wardwell, Police

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Donnelly
Acting Clerk